

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

The copolymers are prepared by known methods, for example by radical polymerization of the monomers in a water miscible organic solvent. Suitable copolymers and methods for their preparation are described in U.S. patent 5,122,582, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference. Suitable copolymers for use in the present invention include certain commercially available vinyl pyrrolidone/vinyl acetate copolymers such as Luviksol® VA73W polyvinyl pyrrolidone polymer and Luviskol® VA64 polyvinyl pyrrolidone polymer available from BASF Corporation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 21, with the following paragraph:

The stable aqueous detergent compositions of the present invention also contain one or more anionic surfactants. A wide range of anionic surfactants is useful in the invention. Useful anionic surfactants include alkyl aryl sulfonates, alkyl sulfonates, alkyl sulfates, alkyl ether sulfates, alkyl phosphates, amine oxides, isethionates, C₈-C₃₀ fatty acid soaps, taurines, betaines, sulfobetaines, and mixtures thereof. A preferred anionic surfactant is LAS, which is an alkyl aryl sulfonate known as linear alkyl benzene sulfonate. It is commercially available, for example, as Biosoft® D-62 sodium alkyl

benzene sulfonate from Stepan. Another preferred class on anionic surfactant is the fatty acid soaps, for example, those formed from stearic acid. Preferably, the anionic surfactant in the stable aqueous detergent composition of the present invention will include a combination of LAS and other anionic surfactants such as the fatty acid soaps.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 4, with the following paragraph:

Examples

In the following Examples, the following abbreviations are used:

“LAS” is Biosoft® D-62 sodium alkylbenzene sulfonate, a linear alkylbenzene sulfonate commercially available from Stepan.

“Neodol® 25-7 Neodol® 257 primary alcohol ethoxylate.” It is a C₁₂₋₁₅ alcohol ethoxylate, with 7 unites of ethylene oxide per unit alcohol, commercially available from Shell. The cloud point is a 0.1% by weight aqueous solution is about 48° C.

“Neodol® 1-7 Neodol® 1-7 primary alcohol ethoxylate. It” is a C₁₁ alcohol ethoxylate, with 7 units of ethylene oxide per unit of alcohol, from Shell. The cloud point is a 0.1% by weight aqueous solution is about 58° C.

“VA73W” is Luviskol® VA73W polyvinyl pyrrolidone polymer. It is a copolymer of 70% vinyl pyrrolidone and 30% vinyl acetate, with a number average molecular weight of 33,000. It is sold by BASF Corporation.

“VA64” is Luviskol® VA64 poly vinylpyrrolidone polymer. It is a copolymer of 60% vinyl pyrrolidone and 40% vinyl acetate, sold by BASF Corporation. The number average molecular weight is about 44,000.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 9, with the following paragraph:

Examples 1-8 demonstrate the effect of the weight ratio of anionic surfactant to nonionic surfactant on the stability of the detergent formulations containing the copolymer at a level of 1% by weight. The anionic surfactant is represented by LAS or stearic acid, while the nonionic surfactant is represented by [Neodol 25-7] Neodol® 25-7 primary alcohol sulfonate or [Neodol 1-7] Neodol® 1-7, primary alcohol sulfonate. In Examples 1-3, which resulted in unstable formulas, the weight ratio was 7 anionic to 17 nonionic, or about 0.4:1. In Example 4, also unstable, the weight ratio of anionic to nonionic was 1.4:1. In Examples 5-6, the weight ratio was 3:1 anionic to nonionic, and the formulas were stable at room temperature and at 50° C. Examples 7 and 8 contained no nonionic surfactant, and are considered to be outside the scope of the invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 4, with the following paragraph:

Examples 9-14 demonstrate that stable detergent formulations can be made which contain greater than 1% by weight copolymer, if the weight ratio of anionic surfactant to nonionic surfactant is above about 4:1. The weight ratio of anionic surfactant to nonionic

surfactant was determined by adding together the amount of LAS and the amount of stearic acid, then dividing by the amount of Neodol 25-7 Neodol® 35-7 primary alcohol sulfonate. In Examples 9 and 10, the weight ratio was 3.4:1, and the formulations were unstable. In Examples 11-12, the weight ratio was 4:4:1, and the formulas were stable.